

**CLAIMS:**

1. A test including the following steps:-
  - (a) providing a screen which can be viewed by the test subject;
  - (b) presenting for a predetermined period on said screen a plurality of first  
5 symbols randomly and widely scattered over said screen, said first symbols being identical or having one or more differences between them;
  - (c) requiring the test subject to identify one or more preselected characteristics of said first symbols;
  - 10 (d) recording the results of the test subject's identification;
  - (e) repeating steps a-d many times, but with the disposition of said first symbols on said screen being varied randomly for each repetition of step (b).
- 15 2. The test as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined period is in the range 3-6 sec.
3. The test as claimed in claim 2 wherein the interval between consecutive tests is approximately 1 sec.
- 20 4. The test as claimed in any one of claims 1-3 wherein said first symbols are divided into two or more groups, with the symbols in one group being different to the symbols in the or each other group, and in step (c), the test subject is required to identify a preselected difference between said groups.
- 25 5. The test as claimed in claim 4 wherein said first symbols comprise two groups of horizontal arrows, one group of arrows pointing from right to left, and the other group of arrows pointing from left to right; and in step (c) the test subject is required to identify whether all the arrows appearing on the screen point in  
30 the same direction or not.
6. The test as claimed in claim 4 wherein said first symbols are divided into at least three groups.
- 35 7. The test as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein in step (c) the

test subject is required to give a verbal identification of said one or more preselected characteristics of said first symbols.

- 5 8. The test as claimed in claim 7 wherein said a verbal identification is recorded by a tester.
9. The test as claimed in claim 7 wherein said verbal identification is recorded by a voice recognition computer programme.
- 10 10. The test as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein in step (c) the test subject is required identify said one or more preselected characteristics of said first symbols by making a preselected motor response.
- 15 11. The test as claimed in claim 10 wherein said motor response consists of pressing a switch.
12. The test as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein:
  - in step (b), the screen simultaneously presents a random tracking test in which the test subject is required to steer a controllable second symbol along a varying route using manual controls;
  - 20 - in step (c), the test subject is required to steer said controllable symbol along said varying route whilst simultaneously identifying one or more preselected characteristics of said first symbols; and
  - in step (d), the result of the test subject's tracking performance is also recorded.
- 25 13. The test as claimed in claimed 12 wherein said manual controls consist of a joystick.
- 30 14. The test as claimed in claim 12 wherein said manual controls consists of a steering wheel.
15. The test as claimed in any one of claims 12-14 wherein said varying route is provided by a curve which moves vertically down the screen.

16. The test as claimed in claim 15 wherein said controllable second symbol consists of an arrow, and in step (c) the test subject is required to steer the arrow so that the point of the arrow remains on the curve.
- 5 17. The test as claimed in any one of the preceding claims further including the following step:-
  - f) assessing the test subject's test results by comparison with standards established by carrying out identical tests on control subjects of known competence.